

Questions:

1. “Qualified Aliens” change that term

1 > Answer: CT WAP strives to be all inclusive and serve all clients with an equal level of service. The term “qualified aliens” is a term used by DOE. Any changes to this term would have to be reviewed and approved by our DOE Program Officers.

2. How can we better leverage HUD or USDA funds for weatherization?

2 > Answer: Leveraging additional funding sources is critical to providing more comprehensive services to CT WAP Clients. CT WAP currently is working with the utility energy efficiency programs to provide deeper energy efficiency measures to our clients. CT WAP is also exploring partnerships with other existing federally funded weatherization programs to better serve clients that qualify for multiple programs.

3. Revisit the multi-family contribution requirement

a. What is the expectation of enforcement? Talk about tenant rights.

3 > Answer: CT WAP utilizes a Landlord Agreement which states that the landlord or property owner has granted permission for work to be done on the property. Additionally, the landlord agrees not to increase the rent of the tenant as result of the improvements being made to the property. The Landlord Agreement is what provides protection of the tenant rights.

4. Explore the cooling aspect

4 > Answer: Based on the CT WAP annual assessment of Heating Degree Days (HDD) and Cooling Degree Days (CDD), it has historically been determined that Connecticut is primarily a heating climate zone. Due to this assessment, DOE has determined that it is only cost effective for the program to repair and replace heating systems in Connecticut. However, starting in Program Year 2021, DEEP will be assessing whether a cooling system repair or replacement can achieve a savings to investment ratio greater than one, although we anticipate this to be a rare occurrence due to the climate zone CT is in.

5. Trainings – certifications not a part of this plan. What are we doing in CT to increase opportunities for people/ improving the workforce?

5 > Answer: Training and certifications are a part of the Training and Technical Assistance Plan which CT WAP submits to DOE on an annual basis. The T&TA Plan can be found in the 2021 Master File/State Plan.

6. Page 17 – Client education - Would add that educated clients would be ambassadors for EE work. Investing in consumer education? Develop a marketing plan/education piece that customers are taken care of.

6 > Answer: CT WAP agrees that it would be great to have clients educated on the benefits of energy efficiency and ultimately have them become ambassadors to others in the community. While WAP funds are primarily used to pay for energy efficiency measures a portion of the funding is used to pay for contractor training which includes a client education component. CT WAP funding can be used to develop a marketing plan and for client education. However, we are looking for additional resources that can be leveraged to provide education to the clients we serve.

7. Workforce development – Workforce Boards?

7 > Answer: While CT WAP is not currently working with the workforce boards, other parts of DEEP are, and CT WAP is coordinating with those efforts.

8. Eager to work on job tracts for new employees

- a. Can WAP pay for new employees to get trained?

8 > Answer: CT WAP can pay for new employees to get trained as well as provide ongoing training to existing employees to maintain and achieve new certifications. However, these individuals must be employed by the WAP grantee, subgrantee or contractor

9. During ARRA, DOL gave funds to help with training – Hartford Job Funnel

- a. DOL must know the demand to offer courses
- b. What are the positions and certs required?
- c. There is no training in CT
 - i. Cost prohibitive for contractors to send employees out of state
- d. DEEP should contact the DOL
- e. The CAAs should come up with a training plan for their contractors

9 > Answer: During ARRA there was a large influx of funding which was used to create new jobs throughout the country. Since ARRA was largely a job creation program those funds were assigned to various agencies for that purpose. WAP funds are primarily used for energy efficiency and training requirements necessary to properly install and maintain energy efficiency measures.

10. Talking workforce development, not training for existing employees

- a. A school or something to train folks in the area of weatherization

10 > Answer: This is something that is beyond the scope of what WAP can fund and manage exclusively and would require the coordination with existing workforce development entities as well as the creation of new ones. This is something other parts of DEEP are currently working on and CT WAP is actively engaged to find a long-term solution.

11. Change the policies or rules (barriers: mold, roof leaks, gutters +25 feet, hatchway doors, asbestos vermiculite removal)

11 > Answer: CT WAP and WAP nationwide is a program whose primary focus is to provide energy efficiency services to low income households. CT WAP is only able to address health and safety problems related to the installation and protection of the energy efficiency measures. In the future CT WAP hopes to find other funding sources which can be utilized to provide more comprehensive Health and Safety measures.

12. Access other funding sources to eliminate barriers – unable to do weatherization work.

Encourage DEEP to explore other funding options to eliminate barriers. Sometimes WAP cannot fix the underlying issue which may be causing barriers.

12 > Answer: CT WAP is an energy efficiency program that addresses health and safety issues when necessary to allow for the installation and protection of comprehensive energy efficiency services. CT

WAP is looking into other sources of funding to address barriers to weatherizing homes that are less restrictive and may be able to more fully address barriers to weatherization.